

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
*CITY OF MILPITAS*

Minutes: Regular meeting of Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission  
Meeting Date: October 24, 2006  
Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting Place: Community Center Rms. 7 & 8

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**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Blake called to order the Milpitas Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission at 7:01 p.m. Present were Commissioners Walker, Cimino, Ebnetter, and Yung. At 7:04 pm, Commissioner Mercado arrived. Absent: Commissioners Ybarra, Dizon, and Chen. Allied Waste Services (Allied) staff present: Gil Cheso and Jeanne Mader. City staff present: Marilyn Nickel and Elizabeth Koo.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Chair Blake led the pledge of allegiance.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Motion to approve the minutes of July 25, 2006.

M/S: Walker/Cimino Ayes: All

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM** None noted.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS** None noted.

**VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

M/S: Walker/Cimino Ayes: All

Motion to approved the amended agenda.

M/S: Walker/Cimino Ayes: All

**VII. OLD BUSINESS** None noted.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. *Zanker School Beautification Event* – Staff Koo announced that the event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 28. Staff Mader reported that coordination and preparation efforts by all (Allied, City and MUSD) have been going well however additional volunteers are always welcomed. Commissioner Cimino reported that the main focus will be adding lawn to a localized area in the front of the school in addition to other improvements around the site such as planting, adding sod, and painting.
2. *Food Waste Pilot Program Update* – Staff Koo reported that the pilot program and associated rates were approved at the August 1, 2006 Council session. Cisco, the program's sole participant, began the program on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Allied has performed routine monitoring of the site and shared the following observations:
  - Cisco has prior experience with a food waste program as it is available at other campuses.
  - Cisco uses a food waste broker, FRG.

- Collection service is 3x/week for a 3cy C-bin. The container has been at least ½ full at each collection. Allies estimates that this is approximately 3 or 4 yards per week and that the amount of material may increase during the winter months when more workers stay indoors to eat.
  - Allied's monitoring has concluded that the food waste material is fairly clean with nominal contamination. (Only edible wastes are accepted, no paper/plastic).
  - Allied's commercial coordinator will perform the next 6-week site check in January 07.
3. *Annual Diversion Rate Components Discussion* – Staff Nickel provided a brief overview of the annual report. Diversion is not based solely on programs. Contributing factors include employment, taxable sales, population and consumer price index (CPI). Milpitas maintained the mandated 50% diversion rate for the 2004 reporting year with the use of a new 2003 base year.
  4. *Construction and Demolition Waste Discussion*- Staff Koo reported that the City promotes recycling and reuse wherever possible. One type of recyclable material is what is removed during a demolition or other construction project (such as concrete and wood). This is known as C&D. The City uses a two-part reporting system for commercial and industrial projects to ensure that C&D material is diverted from the landfill. The first part of the reporting system requires submittal of a report on the type, amount and end destination of the material. Upon receipt, the applicant is issued a demolition permit. The 2<sup>nd</sup> portion of the report requires proof of part 1 such as weight tags. Upon completion, the applicant is eligible for a building permit. Diverted C&D material has assisted the City's achievement of meeting the State's mandated 50% diversion rate.
  5. *Built-In Incentives for Recycling Discussion* – Item postponed for the next session.
  6. *Developing an Activist Position Discussion* – Item postponed for the next session.

**IX. STAFF ACTIVITIES** – Staff Koo provided updates on the following items:

1. *32-Gallon Subscription Mailer* – A subscription mailer was distributed to a target audience of households with limited lot size such as townhomes, condos and mobile homes (approximately 1,500) and also to senior rate payers (approximately 1,700). Allied has reported that they've received 207 subscription cards, mostly from seniors. Subscription tracking and cart deployment will be coordinated by Allied.
2. *Celebrate Milpitas* – Citywide event, formerly referred to as the Milpitas Art & Wine Festival, was held on August 19 and 20, 2006. Staff displayed exhibits and provided information on solid waste programs including single-stream recycling.

**X. ROUNDTABLE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. *Spring Valley Heights Solid Waste Waiver* - Staff Nickel reported that Spring Valley Heights was originally located in unincorporated Santa Clara county land, but was later annexed into Milpitas. The history of the original solid waste mandates is unclear. Residents receive only solid waste (no sewer or water) service from the City. During an audit, it was discovered that Spring Valley was not being billed for solid waste. Upon the onset of billing, a select group of residents declared that they didn't need solid waste service since their long driveways have forced them to develop alternate methods of disposal (ie at their place of business). These residents requested a waiver from City Council which was granted based (in part) upon a 15 yr. precedent of long-standing practices without violations.

Commissioner Yung asked why there is a rental fee for solid waste carts, but not recycling or yard trimmings carts. Staff explained that the cart rental is optional so it is offered on a fee basis, other carts are not optional and (their costs) are thusly built into the rate structure. Commissioner Yung asked if the City or Allied would consider absorbing the costs for all carts as a citywide beautification effort.

## *2. Solid Waste Service Proposal –*

Allied estimates that approximately 8,000 residents rent a garbage cart while another 4,000 do not. Among other issues, (Allied believes that) the lack of uniformity can lead to aesthetic problems. Allied distributed pictures of neighborhoods with overflowing trash carts with potential recyclable material. Only Milpitas and Morgan Hill have unlimited setouts in Santa Clara County which makes it easier to place all setouts as garbage. Volume-based trash rates could help increase the amount of material that people recycle. For example, Allied reported that Fremont achieved a 50% residential diversion rate with volume-based garbage. In addition, Allied reported that single-stream recycling is not generating as much tonnage as previously estimated.

If unlimited service is eliminated, Allied discussed tradeoffs in the form of new programs such as (2) free on-call pickups per resident, etc. This would be in addition to the Neighborhood Cleanup events and six (6) Household Dump Days (HDD) that are currently in place. There was a discussion and review of the 2005 and 2006 Neighborhood Cleanup Event summaries. In 2005, there were 542 participants, 17.62 tons of wood and metal and 35.7 tons of trash. In 2006, there were 515 participants, 43.82 tons of recyclables and 46.55 tons of trash. Allied reported the following particular observations:

- There is no particular season in which more recyclables are generated.
- (Allied) tries to recycle as much material as possible.
- (Event) restrictions were the same for each year although tonnages differed.

Allied took an informal survey to determine which commissioners used HDD and to gauge the interest in limited, on-call collection. Concerns with on-call pickups included:

- Potential mess if setout is not containerized
- Can encourage illegal scavenging.
- May cause parking problems.

There was discussion regarding the City of Santa Clara's Annual Spring Clean-Up and associated problems such as parking.

Staff Nickel reported that the City reviews the solid waste agreement every couple of years to evaluate new programs and negotiate new rates. The next round of discussions is scheduled to start in July 2007 with outcomes that will take effect in January 2008. There are a couple of issues that should be considered:

- Significant amount of preparation is involved should (Allied and City) staff be given direction to pursue this item.
- Equipment life (ie trucks). When service is first negotiated, the equipment is slated to last for the length of the contract, however (in this case) the contract has been extended which raises a question regarding longevity of the current equipment.

Chair Blake requested that "value added services" be considered. For example, residents who have occasional needs for large bins for green yard trims should be able to borrow or rent for a reasonable fee.

Commissioner Cimino asked about the average diversion % for cities in Santa Clara County. Who ranks the highest? How do they achieve that? Essentially, Milpitas should model itself after something that has already proven successful. Allied offered to review jurisdictions that they serve. It was noted that California cities recycling practices are beyond what occurs in other parts of the country.

Commissioner Walker requested that Allied provide a study proposal for the January 2007 meeting.

The Commission's recommendation to Council would be along the lines of types of programs, volume-based service, etc. The type of program will then determine the type of equipment that would be needed. Chair Blake suggested using a matrix to review types of services. Commissioner Cimino asked to look at what has worked successfully in other similar-sized cities. He suggested a site visit to look at something that is both local and successful.

#### **VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- 1) Solid Waste Service Proposals
- 2) Election of RSRAC Officers
- 3) Review of RSRAC Meeting Schedule
- 4) Built-In Incentives for Recycling Discussion
- 5) Developing an Activist Position Discussion

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

M/S: Cimino/Walker

Ayes: All